

Remarks

The Office Action dated April 20, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-17, 19-20, 22, 24-33, 35-36, 38, and 40 are pending in this application. Claims 1-48 stand rejected. Claims 2, 5, 7, 18, 21, 23, 34, 37, 39 and 41-48 have been canceled.

The rejection of Claims 1, 16, 17, 32, 33, and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt et al. (US 5,835,716) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include all the recitations of allowable Claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 is patentable over Hunt et al.

Claim 17 has been amended to include all the recitations of allowable Claim 23. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 17 is patentable over Hunt et al.

Claim 33 has been amended to include all the recitations of allowable Claim 39. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 33 is patentable over Hunt et al.

Claim 48 has been canceled.

Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 1, and Claim 32 depends from independent Claim 17. When the recitations of dependent Claims 16 and 32 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1 and 17 respectfully, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 16 and 32 likewise are patentable over Hunt et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 16, 17, 32, 33, and 48 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 2-5, 9-15, 18-21, 24-31, 34-37, and 41-47 under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt et al. (US 5,835,716) in view of Mowery et al. (US 5,983,198) is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, Claim 1 has been amended to include all the recitations of allowable Claim 7, Claim 17 has been amended to include all the recitations of allowable Claim 23, and Claim 33 has been amended to include all the recitations of allowable Claim 39. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 17, and 33 are patentable over Hunt et al.

Claims 41-47 have been canceled.

Claims 2-5 and 9-15 depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 18-21 and 24-31 depend from independent Claim 17, and Claims 34-37 depend from independent Claim 33. When the recitations of dependent Claims 2-5 and 9-15, 18-21 and 24-31, and 34-37 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1, 17, and 33 respectfully, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-5, 9-15, 18-21, 24-31, and 34-37 likewise are patentable over Hunt et al. and Mowery et al., alone or in combination.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 2-5, 9-15, 18-21, 24-31, 34-37, and 41-47 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this

application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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